IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims in the above-identified patent application as follows:

Cancel claims 1-31

Add claims 32-58, which follow

32.   (Newly Added) A method for recording a configuration of a purchased data center component automatically to a management system during a purchasing process, wherein the method comprises:

transmitting a purchase order for a component to a supplier, vendor or buying agent, wherein the purchase order is generated from an asset template;

receiving a container including the purchased component, wherein a machine-readable code has been placed on the outside of the container;

scanning the machine-readable code, wherein the code contains information on the configuration of the purchased component;

sending the scanned information regarding the purchased component to an order processing center and a data center management system; and,

correlating the purchased component with a purchase order for the component.

33.   (Newly Added) The method according to claim 32, wherein the machine-readable code is a bar code.

34.   (Newly Added) The method according to claim 32, wherein the information contained in the machine-readable code comprises a purchase order number,

obvious to provide additional information for the Purchaser to track the ...

a model or serial number of the purchased component, and information regarding the shipped configuration of the purchased component.

35.   (Newly Added) The method according to claim 32, wherein the machine-readable code is scanned by an optical scanner.

36.   (Newly Added) The method according to claim 32, wherein the method further comprises:

recording purchase order information and information regarding asset configuration in an asset management database subsequent to transmitting the purchase order.

37.   (Newly Added) The method according to claim 36, wherein the step of correlating the purchased component with a purchase order for the component comprises:

retrieving purchase order information and information regarding asset configuration from the asset management database; and,

comparing the retrieved information to the information contained in the machine-readable code.

38.   (Newly Added) The method according to claim 37, wherein after the step of correlating the purchased component with a purchase order for the component, the method further comprises:

determining whether all the components required for assembling an asset have been received.

39. (Newly Added) The method according to claim 38, wherein after the step of determining whether all the components required for assembling an asset have been received, the method further comprises:

placing the component in a storage area, if all the components required for assembling an asset have not been received.

40. (Newly Added) The method according to claim 38, wherein after the step of determining whether all the components required for assembling an asset have been received, the method further comprises:

generating trouble tickets or return orders, if the wrong component is received, or is received with the incorrect configuration.

41. (Newly Added) The method according to claim 38, wherein after the step of determining whether all the components required for assembling an asset have been received, the method further comprises:

assembling an asset, if all components required for its assembly have been received.

42. (Newly Added) The method according to claim 41, wherein the method further comprises:

generating an asset ID for the asset, if the asset is deployable.

43. (Newly Added) The method according to claim 42, wherein the method further comprises:

placing the asset ID on the deployable asset.

44.   (Newly Added) The method according to claim 43, wherein the method further comprises:

updating the asset state in the asset management database to deployable.

45.   (Newly Added) A system for ordering and managing products in a data center environment, wherein the system comprises:

an ordering system, wherein the ordering system is configured to generate a purchase order for an asset from an asset template; and,

a data center management system, which is coupled to the ordering system, wherein the management system is configured to perform at least the following functions:

setting state information within a database indicating that a component is on order;

correlating the purchased component with the purchase order upon receipt of the component; and,

tracking the component in relation to the asset of the purchase order.

46.   (Newly Added) The system according to claim 45, wherein the ordering system is configured to generate the purchase order by checking whether there is an existing asset template, and using that template if it does exist.

47.   (Newly Added) The system according to claim 45, wherein the ordering system is configured to generate the purchase order by checking whether there is an existing asset template, and creating a new asset matching a desired configuration if it does not exist.

48.   (Newly Added) The system according to claim 45, wherein the asset is a rack, wherein components are to be installed.

49.   (Newly Added) The system according to claim 45, wherein the asset is a node within a data center.

50.   (Newly Added) The system according to claim 45, wherein the management system is configured such that the purchased component is correlated with the purchase order by scanning a machine readable code containing information, which is on a container in which the component was received, and comparing that information to the purchase order.

51.   (Newly Added) The system according to claim 50, wherein the ordering system is configured to generate the purchase order by checking whether there is an existing asset template, and creating a new asset matching a desired configuration if it does not exist, and wherein the information contained in the machine-readable code comprises the model/serial number of the component and vendor specific information describing the component's shipped configuration.

52.   (Newly Added) An article comprising a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon which, when executed, cause at least the following functions to be performed:

    generating a purchase order for a component;

setting state information within a database indicating that the component is on order;

correlating the component with a purchase order upon receipt of the component;

tracking the component in relation to an asset of the purchase order; and,

determining whether the received components are sufficient for an asset to be classified as deployable.

53.   (Newly Added) The article of claim 52, wherein the purchase order for a component is generated from an asset template.

54.   (Newly Added) The article of claim 53, wherein the asset is either a rack where components are to be installed or a node within a data center.

55.   (Newly Added) The article of claim 54, wherein correlating the purchased component with the purchase order comprises:

retrieving purchase order information and information regarding asset configuration from an asset management database; and,

comparing the retrieved information to information contained in a machine-readable code placed on a container in which the component was received.

56.   (Newly Added) The article of claim 55, wherein determining whether the received components are sufficient for an asset to be classified as deployable comprises:

determining whether all components for assembly of an asset have been received, if the asset requires assembly; and

placing the received components in storage, if the asset requires assembly and all the components have not been received.

57.   (Newly Added) The article of claim 56, wherein if an asset is determined to be deployable, then the article further causes:

generating a data center-unique identifier for the asset; and,

affixing the identifier to the asset.

58.   (Newly Added) The article of claim 57, wherein the data center-unique identifier is a barcode sticker.

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